# Commission releases report on costs of hospital care

The Virginia Health Services Cost Review Commission today released a special report of relative charges made by individual hospitals throughout the Commonwealth for 25 selected services as of January 10, 1981.

This report fulfills a legislative mandate that the Commission survey hospital charges and provide information that will allow for informed decisions about services, programs offered, and costs necessary to provide health care to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Services selected were those used by many patients during a typical hospital stay, provided by all hospitals, and capable of uniform definition by informed citizens or health professionals.

Shown in the report are actual hospital charges for the services, as well as medians, by geographic area of the sate allowing for comparisons to be made against benchmark data; i.e., median charges for a service by other hospitals in a specific geographic area of the Commonwealth, statewide medians, and medians by comparable hospital size.

Highlights of findings show that the overall statewide median charge per day for a semi-private room is $108, and overall room rates and emergency room charges are highest in Northern Virginia and lowest in Southwestern Virginia. Costs for labor, supplies and space, as well as the demand for more complex and diverse hospital services and technology, contribute to higher charges in urban areas. However, several diognostic services, such as nuclear brain scan technology, laboratory analysis, and EKG/EEG interpretations, show a higher unit cost in the rural areas, possibly due to the amortization of capital expenditures necessary to acquire and offer this technology.

Mr. John C. C. Byrne, Chairman of the Virginia Health Services Cost Review Commission, said "The Com-

(Continued on page B-3)

# Hospital costs examined

(Continued from page B-2)

mission believes that this report will be helpful to consumers and health professionals in evaluating hospital and health care charges." He cautions, however, that a thorough knowledge of hospital charging practices, physician arrangements, scope of services rendered, and a number of other complex interactions is necessary to properly compare rates at individual hospitals.

The Virginia Health Services Cost Review Commission, authorized by law which became effective July 1, 1978, reviews annual filings from the 120 Virginia hospitals.

"Our primary responsibility," said Byrne, "is to review the budget filings of individual hospitals and determine that aggregate charges are consistent with the financial requirements of the hospital.

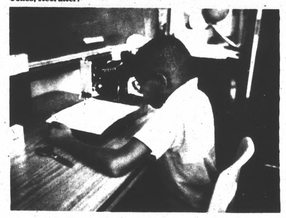
"We are pleased to offer this first study as a foundation for later studies that we, or others, may initiate."



## Recruiters visit ACHS

On Thursday, November 5, 1981, a Career Team of Army Specialists lectured and gave demonstrations in the business education classes, drafting, auto mechanics, electricity/electronics, masonry, and occupational foods classes at Appomattox County High School. The specialists emphasized the importance of creativity, diversity, skill mastery, and motiv[illegible] ing in the business and technical areas. Specialists were as follows: Watercraft Engineer, Draftsman, Auto Mechanic, Masonry, Helicopter Repairman, Helicopter Electrician, Food Specialist, and Personnel Specialist. The program was coordinated by the Guidance Department, Mr. R. B. Carter, Vocational Director, and Sgt. Ray Jones, Army Recruiter.

SHOWN ABOVE, left to right: (First Row) Sp. 5 Sharon Visher, Food Specialist. (second Row) Sp. 4 Dante Dean, Electronics; S/Sgt. Glenn Hoover, Aircraft Mechanic; Sgt. Walter Alexander, Food Specialist. (Third Row) Sp. 4 Levan Holden, Masonry; Sgt. Eldridge, Recruiter; Sp. 4 Josephine Fludd, Personnel; Pvt. 2 Caroline Blanton, Watercraft; Sgt. James Montague, Auto Mechanic. (Fourth Row) Sp. 4 Lloyd Williams (Drafting), Sgt. Ray Jones, Recruiter.



A STUDENT IN Mrs. Bryan's sixth-grade class stitches his poetry book. The students have been reading, writing and listening to poetry in Mrs. Bryan's class for the past three weeks.

## Students study poetry

By KATHERINE CLIFTON

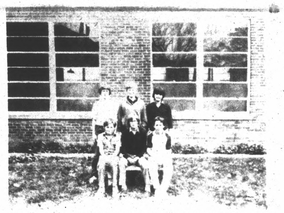
Mrs. Bryan's sixth grade class has been reading, writing, and listening to poetry for three weeks.

This is the final week of poetry study. The photograph shows Mark Wright sewing up his poetry book.

The first part of making the book was taking notes about poetry, its techniques and forms. After initial groaning and moaning, it was fun to take notes. The second step was getting the notes in order. The third step was doing the book mock-up. That is the final products plan. The final step was binding and printing the books.

Now the class is preparing to teach another six grade poetry. Each has a style or technique to present.

This has been a creative experience for all who were involved.



On November 5 the FFA Hub Federation Dairy Judging contest was held at Rustburg High School. Participants from Appomattox Middle School were (left to right) Mike Martin, Dennis Farley, James Cash, (sitting right) Russell Franklin, Daryll Conner and Jeff Sayne. Mike Martin placed 7th individually, and Russell Franklin placed 9th. The AMS team placed 2nd overall.

STEVE WOODS, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Woods of Concord, placed first in FFA Hub Federation Creed contest on Nov. 12, 1981. Steve will be representing the Hub Federation in the Southside Area Creed contest on Dec. 5.

ON NOVEMBER 12, 1981 Appomattox Middle FFA chapter held its first chapter meeting. Our guest speaker was Mr. Charles Torrence, Appomatlox, game warden. Other guests included parents of several members. Mr. Torrence presented a film on ways to increase the population of turkeys in the area.


THANKSGIVING Greetings

KING'S

MORE THANKSGIVING VALUES...

REG., DRIP, A.D.C., ELEC. PERK FOLGER'S COFFEE 16 oz. can $2.19

RICHFOOD CRANBERRY SAUCE 16 oz. can 39¢

REGULAR OR SUGAR FREE PEPSI COLA OR MT. DEW 16 oz. bottles 8 for $1.19 PLUS DEPOSIT

SAVE ON... CRISCO SHORTENING 3 lb. can $1.99

PLAIN OR SELF-RISING MARTHA WHITE FLOUR 5 lb. bag 99¢

STOKELY WHOLE Golden Corn or Sweet Peas 17 oz. cans 2 for 99¢

RICHFOOD CRANBERRY JUICE 48 oz. jar $1.69

SUNSHINE SPICED PICKLED PEACHES 29 oz. jar $1.49

SAVE ON... BRUCE'S YAMS 29 oz. can 89¢

CARNATION EVAPORATED MILK 13 oz. can 2 for 89¢

CONFECTIONARY DOMINO SUGAR 2 lb. poly bag 99¢

PEPPERIDGE FARM CORNBREAD STUFFING OR CRAIN 8 oz. pkg. 69¢ 16 oz. pkg. $1.19

KELLOGG'S CROUTETTES STUFFING 7 oz. box 79¢

DUNCAN HINES LAYER CAKE MIXES ALL FLAVORS - 18½ oz. box 89¢

COMSTOCK PUMPKIN PIE FILLING 16 oz. can 69¢

SELF-RISING Martha White Corn Meal 5 lb. bag $1.49

MARTHA WHITE MUFFIN MIX 6 oz. box 4 for $1.00

SLICED, CRUSHED, CHUNK DOLE PINEAPPLE 20 oz. can 79¢

STOKELY PEAR HALVES OR FRUIT COCKTAIL OR PEACHES (SLICES OR HALVES) 16 oz. can 59¢

SAVE ON... STOKELY CUT GREEN BEANS 16 oz. can 3 for $1.00

AMOCO STURDYWARE DINNER OR COMPARTMENT PLATES 8 7/8" 50 count $1.59

AMOCO STURDYWARE COMPARTMENT PLATES 10¼" 20 count $1.19

CORONET BATH TISSUE 2 roll pkg. $1.99

FAMILY PACK CORONET NAPKINS 180 count 89¢

FOR THE LAUNDRY... RINSO DETERGENT 44 oz. box $1.19

SAVE ON... LUX BATH SOAP 3 oz. bar 33¢

7 OZ. 100 COUNT LILLY COLD PAPER CUPS or 9 oz. 80 count $1.29

CHUNK LIGHT BUMBLE BEE TUNA in oil or water - 6½ oz. can 79¢

WELCH'S GRAPE JELLY OR JAM 48 oz. jar $1.69

RICHFOOD PINTO BEANS NAVY BEANS: $1.19 2 lb. bag 83¢

RICHFOOD BLACKEYE PEAS 2 lb. bag $1.03

JUICY FLORIDA ORANGES 5 lb. bag $1.29

GARDEN FRESH PRODUCE...

SIZE 10 JUICY PINEAPPLE EACH $1.19

SNO-WHITE Loose Mushrooms POUND $1.19

TURNIP OR MUSTARD GREENS OR KALE 49¢

RUSSET BAKING POTATOES 70 count 29¢

U.S. NO. 1 FANCY SWEET POTATOES POUND 39¢

SAVE! Fresh Cranberries 12 oz. pkg. 59¢

RED OR WHITE GRAPEFRUIT 5 lb. bag $1.29

BAKERY TREATS...

KING'S BROWN & SERVE ROLLS 12's 59¢

KING'S SANDWICH SLICED BREAD 20 oz. loaf 59¢

SWEET POTATO PIE 26 oz. pkg. $2.29

DELICIOUS... CINNAMON ROLLS 6 for 99¢

CHOCOLATE FUDGE PECAN CAKE (SQUARE) 18 oz. pkg. $1.69

TASTY... COCONUT CAKE 32 oz. pkg. $2.19

HEALTH & BEAUTY AIDS...

NEW! CREST GEL Toothpaste 2.7 oz. tube 95¢

SAVE! STAYFREE MAXI'S 30's $2.99

SAVE! Listerine Mouthwash 12 oz. bottle $1.49

SAVE! ADORN HAIR SPRAY 9 oz. can $1.99

REGULAR BAN ROLL-ON 2½ oz. bottle $2.19

SAVE! ALKA SELTZER 25's $1.29

ANTI-PERSPIRANT RIGHT GUARD 6 oz. can $2.39

FROZEN FOOD & DAIRY SPECIALS...

PET RITZ PIE SHELLS 5's: $1.39, Deep Dish 2's: 79¢ 2's 59¢

PET WHIPPED TOPPING 8 oz. cont. 69¢

PET RITZ MINCE MEAT PIE 26 oz. pkg. $1.49

PET RITZ PUMPKIN CUSTARD PIE 26 oz. pkg. $1.29

GRADE A LARGE EGGS DOZEN 79¢

SAVE! RICHFOOD EGGNOG QUART $1.19

Minute Maid Concentrated LEMON JUICE 7½ oz. cont. 79¢

PARKAY MARGARINE QUARTERS 1 lb. pkg. 59¢

REGULAR LAND O LAKES BUTTER 16 oz. pkg. $1.99

SAVE ON... PUMPKIN PIE 26 oz. pkg. $2.29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